

Council where she rose to prominence as the utilities spokesperson.

Mrs. Norwood was an inspiration to thousands of people who knew her, saw her on television or heard her on the news. Mrs. Norwood became ill and reached the point where she could not walk and often would come to meetings and functions in a wheelchair. Her motto was, she might give out, but would never give up.

Well, she finally gave in and gave out and is now gone to a new community where she remains a premier activist. I can hear her now calling the heaven to order.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO ALEXANDER AND LILLIAN JOZWIAK

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a couple who have endured the test of time. On July 31, Alexander and Lillian Jozwiak are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

Both born to Polish immigrant parents, they met at a Halloween dinner dance in Flint in 1947. Soon after, they fell in love and Alexander proposed to Lillian at Christmas. They made a commitment to spend their lives together—a commitment they have taken very seriously. On July 31, 1948, they were married at All Saints Catholic Church in Flint by Father S. Bortnowski. The best man was Jerome "Harry" Jozwiak and the maid of honor Jeanette Szacki.

Shortly after the wedding, the couple moved to Frankenmuth, Michigan. They moved again to Flint before settling in my hometown of Bay City to raise their family. Alexander and Lillian are devoted to their family and instilled strong values in their three children, Kathleen Janell, Gerard Joseph and Linette Marie. The couple is now retired in Colonial Heights, Virginia, where they enjoy watching their three and one-half year old grandson, Thomas Emmanuel Burnette II, grow with the same values they instilled in their children. Today it is Thomas' perpetual amount of energy that is responsible for preserving their youth.

Alexander and Lillian are not only dedicated to each other and their family, but also dedicated to their country. Alexander enlisted in the Army and served in World War II. They are symbols to the American people that commitment and strong family values can produce many blessings and much happiness.

Mr. Speaker, though the road of life has been long and laborious, the fortitude, love and perseverance of this couple have made a lasting mark on the future generations. I urge you and all our colleagues to join me in extending our best wishes for many more happy years together. May God's continued blessing be upon them.

IN MEMORY OF MEDFORD R. PARK

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great regret that I inform the Members of the House

on the passing of Medford R. Park, a former Executive Director of the Wentworth Foundation, on July 23, 1998.

Mr. Park, a native of Lexington, Missouri, graduated from Wentworth Military Academy, and later attended the University of Missouri-Columbia. While at the University, Med participated in various extracurricular activities and was a four-year varsity letterman in basketball. After graduating from Mizzou with a bachelor's of Science in Education in 1955, Med joined the St. Louis Hawks of the National Basketball Association. Med played for the Hawks from 1955 through 1959—including the 1958 national championship team. He concluded his NBA Career with the Cincinnati Royals from 1959 to 1960. Med coached the Battle Creek Braves of the Northern Professional League from 1966 to 1968.

Mr. Park was the Executive Director of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in Macon, Georgia, and served as the Executive Director of the John Q. Hammons Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in Springfield, Missouri.

Mr. Park is survived by his wife Nancy, three sons, and one sister.

Mr. Speaker, Medford Park was an inspiration in the Lexington community, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to the life of this great Missourian.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Chairman, here we go again.

I rise today in opposition to this bill because it fails to fund the AmeriCorps National Service program.

Despite the public's consistently strong support of AmeriCorps, critics in Congress consistently strive to eliminate this important program. So far, they have not succeeded.

Last year, this destructive idea took the form of a funding reduction amendment that passed the House by voice vote. Fortunately for America, the Senate rightly included full funding—in fact, increased funding—for the program in its version of the bill. The program was ultimately retained in the conference report but funded at 75% of the previous year.

Eliminating this program would be a tragedy for our country. The AmeriCorps program, which has had a long history of bipartisan support, has effectively demonstrated our nation's strong commitment to community service and higher education. The program has helped

more than 50 thousand young adults (1,844 in my state alone) earn trust awards to put towards college and has provided opportunities for seniors to remain active within their communities. Despite these achievements, some in this Congress continue to criticize.

Over the past few years, these critics have cited allegations of cost overruns and inefficiencies in the program. They have looked for every opportunity to criticize the program and, at the same time, criticize the President.

Early in the last Congress, the Oversight Subcommittee of the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities held a series of hearings on the AmeriCorps program to address the concerns of its critics. As Ranking Member of that subcommittee at the time, I had the opportunity to investigate the allegations and to hear the truth about the progress that has been made to correct any problems.

I, too, was initially concerned about cost overruns, political abuses, and other teething problems with the AmeriCorps program. However, we learned at our first hearing that the Corporation for National Service, of which AmeriCorps is a part, has taken aggressive action to correct any problems. Where political activity was evident, AmeriCorps has cut off funding. In its first year, AmeriCorps also raised almost triple the amount dictated by law from non-Corporation sources.

The Corporation took additional steps to address the concerns of its critics. Former Senator Harris Wofford, now CEO of the Corporation for National Service, and Senator Charles Grassley announced a 10-point plan to reform the AmeriCorps program.

That bipartisan effort made clear, enforceable commitments to contain costs. It also resulted in an increase in the AmeriCorps private sector match from 25 to 33 percent of program costs. The 10-point plan also called for further steps to prohibit any kind of lobbying and to improve the grant review and evaluation process. AmeriCorps also agreed to expand its commitment to service and volunteerism. Finally, the 10-point plan called for increased collaboration with national non-profits, special scholarships to reward volunteerism, and efforts to increase occasional volunteerism nationwide.

Indeed, the Corporation heard the voices of its critics and has taken successful steps to cut its costs, leverage more volunteers, and improve its financial management.

Mr. Chairman, despite the widely-known successes of the program, reflected in its public support, some in Congress continue to attack its funding. That leads me to believe that the motives behind the criticism were never constructive, nor intended to produce a model government program. Instead, these critics' real goal was ultimately to defund a program that has been a target of theirs for years, no matter how well it is working today.

The President has announced that he will veto this bill—in large part because it zeroes out funding for this important effort. I urge my colleagues not to terminate an AmeriCorps that has provided many Americans with constructive options to prepare for the future and to better their communities through volunteering. AmeriCorps, through its own valuable projects and its example to the work of others, is making our nation a better place for everyone. Please, oppose this bill.